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Application No. 10/735,732  
Docket No. 740756-2684REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Final Office Action of August 2, 2006. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Office Action, claim 1 has been amended for clarity, and claims 16-19 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-15 are still pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

The final Office Action has maintained the rejection of claims 1-7 and 13-15 under U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heuer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,368,731). Claims 8-11 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heuer et al. in view of Yang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,723,873). Claim 12 is again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heuer et al. in view of Ara (U.S. Pat. No. 6,613,454).

Claims 1-7 and 13-15 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heuer et al. in view of Lidberg et al. Proceedings of SPIE – The International Society for Optical Engineering (1995), 2397 (Optoelectronic Integrated Circuit Materials, Physics, and Devices), p. 633-42. Claims 8-11 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heuer et al. in view of Lidberg et al. in further view of Yang et al. Claim 12 is again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Heuer et al. in view of Lidberg et al. in further view of Ara. These rejections are respectfully traversed, as neither Heuer et al. nor Lidberg et al. teach or suggest each and every feature set forth in the pending claims.

On page 6 of the Action, the Examiner states that Applicants' arguments presented in the June 26, 2006, response were considered but were not persuasive. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that the polythiophenes disclosed in Heuer are oxidized. However, the Examiner is not accounting for the claim limitation in claim 1, that the "the hole injecting layer is made of a conjugate polymer that is soluble in an organic solvent and has been oxidized by an electron-accepting organic compound". While Heuer does

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describe the treatment of the neutral polythiophenes with oxidizing agents, the reference does not disclose that an electron-accepting organic compound is used as an oxidizing agent, as is recited in claim 1. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Heuer, and is therefore allowable at least for the above reason.

In addition, although the Examiner contends that it is obvious that an electron-accepting organic compound is used as an oxidizing agent, Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner does not refer to the reason in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Heuer nor Lidberg et al. disclose using an electron-accepting organic compound as an oxidizing agent. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner set forth more clearly and fully the support for finding the use of an electron-accepting organic compound as an oxidizing agent to be obvious.

Furthermore, the Examiner cites Lidberg et al. as an alternative that the electron-accepting compound must be present in the final product. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has combined Heuer and Lidberg et al. improperly. Heuer is related to an electroluminescent element. Lidberg et al. is related to optical absorption and electrical conductivity measurements. These are non-analogous arts and should not be combined without a specific reason. Although Lidberg et al. discloses 7, 7, 8, 8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ), the same as the formula (2) shown in claim 7, Lidberg et al. does not disclose TCNQ used for a hole injecting material in an electroluminescent element. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to combine Heuer and Lidberg et al. since these references belong to different technical fields.

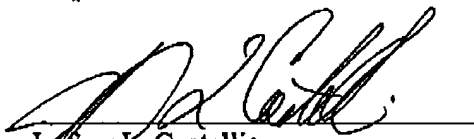
Dependent claims 2-15 depend from independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable at least for the aforementioned reasons, and further for the additional features recited.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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